A

LETTER

From

IRELAND

Concerning

The late Trayterous Conſpiracie

In that

KINGDOME;

WITH

An Account of the

Principal Perſons

Engaged in it.

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A
LETTER
FROM
IRELAND, &c.

I Received yours by the laſt; and in anſwer thereunto, (though my buſineſs and diſabilities this way of writing might diſpence with your commands, there being other of them of greater importance and more eſpecial conſequence to your ſervice, which cannot by reaſon of this at preſent be diſpatched) I have ventured upon this ſummary account of the Affairs here, the ſudden turbulency or ſtirs whereof, do ſeem ſo much to concern and affect you: deſiring you therefore to excuſe the unpreparedneſs and rudeneſs of the ſtile, by the readineſs and obſequiouſneſs of the performance, and by the willing endeavour of giving you ſome ſatisfaction.

The world cannot be unacquainted with the late troubles of this Kingdome; and that it hath ſuffered more by faction, and national diviſion and feud, during the late times of rebellion and uſurpation,

then any other of his Majesties Dominions; nay, then any one Region under the face of heaven; insomuch that it very well deserves its Denomination, *The Land of Ire*: so great the hatred and spiteful animosity betwixt the several Interests and Parties, which went to the Coalition and Community of this State: A Political Body, different far from the Natural, whose perfection and harmony is made up by different and discordant Elements; whereas to the frame of this, nothing is more destructive or incompatible. Nor can any such temperament or expedient be imagined, by which a mutual security (the healthful disposition and constitution of all States) may be attained, that one of them be not predominant, at least encroach and entrench upon the other. Like Liquors, they will not incorporate, but keep loose within the bounds of Government, when since of necessity they must lie interspersed, they do like a certain River, which passing through other waters, keeps its flood unmixt and untainted from the continuous Channel; not trespasses upon, nor takes any thing from it. And this is the present, as it hath been the constant difficulty of my Lords Government here, and hath made him liable to so many cavils of partiality, or of the pretended occasions likewise of this Conspiracie.

To reduce therefore the licentious and increasing violence which had been practised here during the usurpation, to the ancient limits and boundaries, and to unsettle things from that arbitrary Plea of Conquest, which that bloody and inhumane War pretended to, and had accordingly invested those prosperous Arms that had *fusque deque* mingled and confounded

confounded all things, to the undistinguishing almost of all propriety, and extinguishing the Irish Nation with it; and from a just quarrel against Rebels, degenerated into a Rebellion against their Soveraign, and most horrible Riots and Out-rages against innocent subjects, not alone of the Irish Nation or Roman Catholicks, but in conclusion English Protestants also; of whom a great many suffered in the Province of *Munster*, for siding with my Lord *Inchiquen* the President thereof, against the *Junto* at *Westminster*, from the year 1647. was not onely a noble and most laudable Act, becoming the Kings Honour and my Lord Lieutenants also, but a most prudential and Political Proceeding, and which will no less assert his Majesties Royal Authority for the future, then it magnifies and vindicates his Justice and Piety for the times past.

I intend not to be an Advocate for those Sanguinous Nocent Irish, (as they are now qualified) in the first years of their Rebellion; many of whom were no more friends to the Kings Restitution, then they were enemies to his blessed Fathers Destruction, as their insolent stubbornness to this present Lord Lieutenant in the year 1647, 8, 9, and 50. sufficently declared: and if they have had any good and loyal wishes since that time, I am confident we may thank their miseries, not themselves. Those that I mean by this account, are such of the innocent Irish, who as *unborn* or unconcerned in the sins and guilt of their Ancestors, did rue the issue of that calamitous War; and such other faultless persons, who were no more a kin to the Rebellion, then they were to the Irish.

Having

Having premis'd this, it will I doubt not appear to you, that there was alike equity and neceſſity for the reſtitution of thoſe who had moſt injuriouſly ſuffered; the methods whereunto by the honourable *Court of Claims* newly erected, is altogether as equal, fair and reaſonable. And did I not know that you are (as all the world ought to be) ſufficiently ſatisfied of the integrity, honour, and impartial unconcerned proceedings of that Judicature, I ſhould not grudge that ſervice in duty and reſpect I owe them, to give a fuller account thereof here: but the moſt unreaſonable deſignes of ſome ill-minded and male-content perſons, enemies to all good and juſt Government, the abſtract whereof you require, being my incumbent task, I muſt divert my Pen; and inſtead of characterizing their Juſtice, blazon the Impiety of theſe deſperate Conſpirators: the rather from this ground and place, becauſe they are not aſhamed to entitle the cauſes of their Rebellion and Diſloyal Defection, to the proceedings of that Court.

But before I proceed, I cannot ſufficiently wonder at the bold injuſtice of thoſe very men, who having beyond the extreameſt barbarity of the Iriſh, deported themſelves to that Nation, (not to mention their deſigne of a total extirpation of them long before their effected Dominion over them, when their neceſſity and want of Drudges, (a more miſerable ſort of Gibeonites,) mitigated and reſpited that execrable fury) did at laſt drive them from their Patrimonial Manſions, and cooped them like wild beaſts in one of the moſt unhealthful Provinces of that Kingdom: nor ſuffered them to be ſecure there, but under hard

ſub-

ſub-diſtinct limitations, of not ſtirring to one anothers houſes upon pain of death; and required and exacted ſuch payments and ſubjection, when they had neither left them means nor ſenſes to obey, that this their tyranny was the perfect Idea of all cruelty and oppreſſion that ever infamed the Univerſe. Nor was their uſage much more humane and civil to the aforeſaid Engliſh Proteſtants of *Munſter*, whoſe ſad and miſerable condition ſoftned even the hard heart of that Monſter *Oliver* into ſome relentings, when he emitted a Proclamation of Indemnity to them; but to very little purpoſe or effect, this potent evil being paſt ſuch feeble remedies.

For thoſe men now, who have long enough enjoyed the ſweets of their unjuſt poſſeſſion, which was complicated with treaſon againſt the King, to complain of their legal ſurrenders and forfeitures to the rightful Proprietors, and to conſpire and plot againſt the Laws and the Government, which can do no otherwiſe then right to the oppreſſed, and ſet the innocent free, at what hazards ſoever to the Commonwealth: (for, *Fiat Juſtitia, pereat mundus*: Let Juſtice be done, though the world be undone) 'tis all one as for Thieves to quarrel the Law for reſtoring their ſtollen prizes to the Owners, when they have forfeited their lives alſo, and the parties and Judges are pleaſed to commute therewith for their offences. Certainly thoſe men forget that they owed their Lives to the Kings clemency and meer mercy; and that though he could right his good Subjects by his immediate command, yet he is gratiouſly pleaſed to direct an ordinary courſe of juſtice for their remedy and relief. In ſum, they would turn this their inconſiderable

ſiderable inconvenience and damage, ſome few hundreds a year, and none of their own neither, to their greateſt advantage, and make benefit of their loſs, by this ambitious and trayterous project of the ſpoil and ſeizure of a whole Kingdome.

I ſhould here give you a Copy of their Declaration; but I onely ſaw the heads of it, and could not procure an Extract: onely thus much: There is nothing in it novel, or varying from former the like diſguiſes of Rebellion; yet I was pleaſed to ſee them pretend to be inſtruments to the Kings Reſtitution, and to boaſt of their merit in that affair in the beginning; and juſt at the end they are for reſtoring all things *in ſtatu quo*, as they were in the year 1659. when the moſt reſolute effects were practiſed to have kept his Majeſty out, and moſt pertinaciouſly in that Kingdome. But there were no ſuch hanging names, or more Antimonarchical perſons in the whole Realm, then thoſe Fellows, as by their Catalogue *I* doubt not you have well perceived.

The like fictions they have of his Majeſties being miſled by evil Counſellors: mighty tender they ſeem of his politick Capacity; like the witty Sophiſters in 1641. But in the concluſion, it diſappears; for they make no mention of his perſonal one, but jumble that and other beautiful Exiſtencies of the Government into the ſame Chaos of 1659. which alone is able to make this goodly Vizor of another Reformation, the moſt terrible *Mormo* and fright in the world.

Laſtly, that they might inveagle the leſs wary and diſaffected Presbyterians, they declare to ſettle Religion *a la mode* the Solemn League and Covenant.

I cannot tell what kindneſs people elſewhere may have for that perjurious Libel, which hath done ſo much miſchief in the three Kingdoms already; but certainly they did not calculate that device for this Meridian, but the neighbouring Scotch Kirk, whence they might expect ſome Covenant-aſſiſtance: For I am confident there are few here who love conjuring ſo well, as to read three lines of thoſe *666* magical words, for fear of a ſpell, and raiſing the white Devil without his errand: for thoſe old pretences of the League are trifling State-fallacies, and will not finde him work a minute longer.

And ſuch another rattle is their *Diana* of *Ireland*, The *Engliſh Intereſt*, which they loudly cry up, and ſignifies no more then the forcible detainer and keeping of what they have by violence ſeized and wreſted from the right owners, whether Iriſh or Engliſh, both of them alike obnoxious to their Rapine. The whole drift is to amuſe ſilly people, and to ſcare them by the Juſtice of the Laws out of the protection thereof, and ſhelter themſelves in the Maſs and Herd of the Vulgar: for no conſiderable perſons here, whatever they correſpond with abroad, are likely to give any countenance to ſo ſhallow a deſign, or to engage with their *Olivarian* Muſhromes.

The intention of acting this conſpiracie is next in order: But I ſuppoſe you have already had a perfect account of that, by Expreſſes from my Lord Lieutenant; as likewiſe his Declarations thereupon, and the ſeizing of ſundry of the Principals therein, & the Proclamation againſt others of them that are fled, though it is not doubted they will hardly lurk any-

where long in this Kingdom: And therefore I will forbear giving you the trouble of any of those particulars, and confine and conclude this discourse with some particular reflections upon the Conspirators, and their hopes and aims upon the accomplishment of their design, and the seizing the person of his Grace the Duke of *Ormond*.

It was at first spread abroad by the Party, that Colonel *Edmond Ludlow*, one of the horrid Judges of the late King (who had formerly commanded here upon the death of *Ireton* (who died of the Plague in *Limrick*) and during the vacancy of a chief Governour, as Lieutenant-General of the Army, while my Lord Marquess of *Clanricard* sustained the Kings Authority as substitute to the Duke) was to have headed this Phanatick Crue: But certainly he escaped not Justice so narrowly in *England*, when he fled out of the custody of the Serjeant at Arms, as to put himself upon the Pikes on a new score; when he doth and may, perhaps till vengeance it self finde him, sleep yet secure in that cavern and retreat, in which his good Stars yet shelter him; Yet was there more noise in the mention of this person, then any strength or support to the design; for he was never famed nor beloved by the Souldiery for any service: and his Fortune was as little as his conduct; there being no news of him till almost the total reduction of *Ireland*: and then Sir *Charles Coot* carried away the main reputation of having finished that War: so that there is nothing dreadful in him, but his infamy.

As for *Jones*, he is allied likewise to another Regicide, who expiated his Treason at *Charing-Cross*; *John*

John Jones, *Cromwels* Brother-in-Law, one of the Commissioners for the Rump, in that Kingdom: a person of no interest, and as little concernment here; but onely because his name-sake was in the black list, the friends and abettors of those fellows would more readily engage upon assuring him also, or at least his name, into the same confederacie. Of the same batch is Colonel *Thomas Scot*, whose Father suffered for the same crime at the same place; a great friend of *Harry Cromwels*, and one of his confident privado's. So that by this it appears, it was a design of particular revenge in part; they impiously thinking to cry quit with the more signal *vindictæ* of Heaven in bringing those wretches to condign punishment, when they had dared it, especially *Scot*, and affronted it with their obstinate and arrogant justification of the Fact, as proceeding thence.

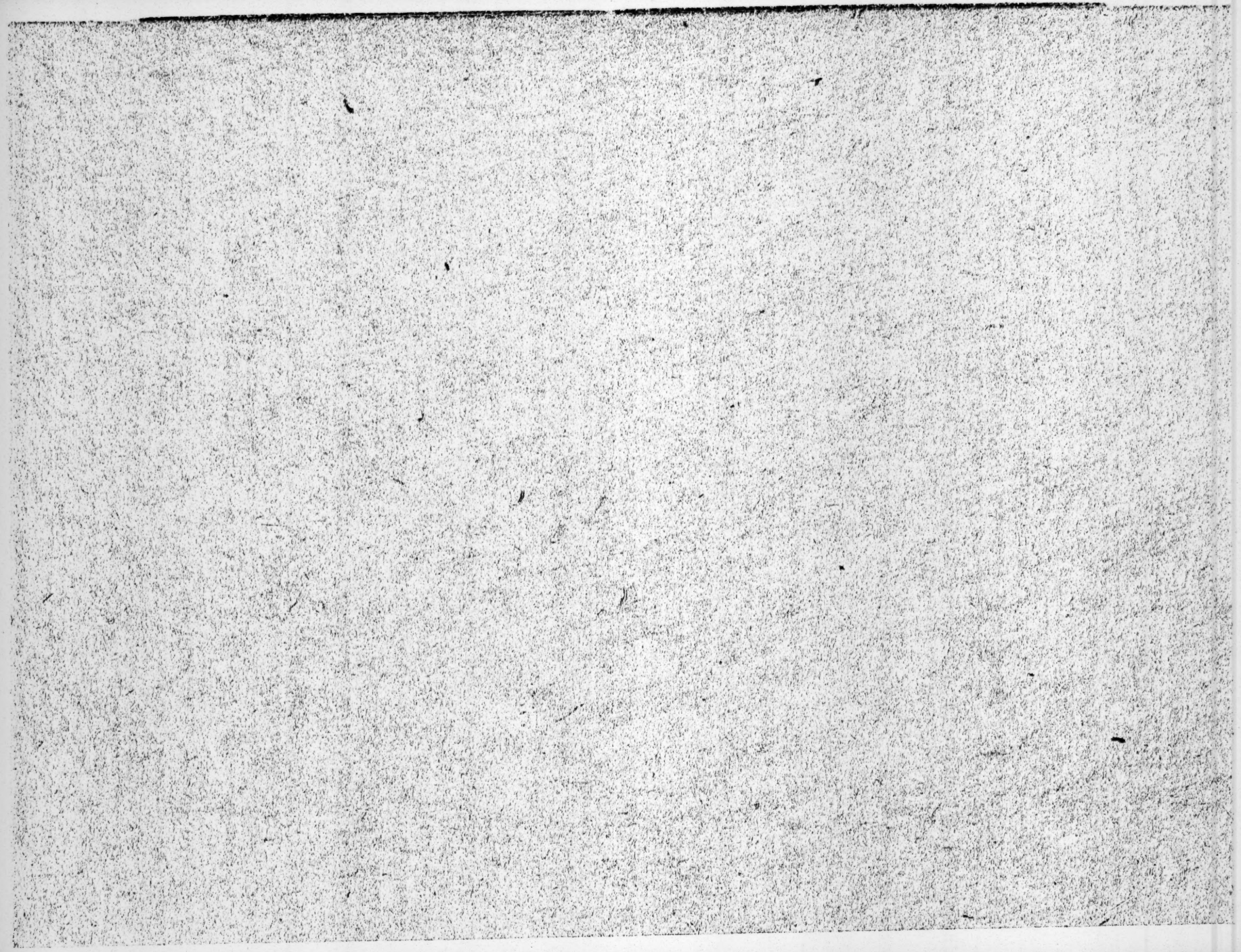
There are also two of the *Warrens* allied to him, that betrayed *Yougbal* and *Cork*, then Garisons of my Lord *Inchiqueens* for the King in *Munster*; and there, that they might not go less in such treasonable practices, contrived this additional Villany. The others are of a mute sort of the people, but generally of the old souldiery, who have not laid down their Rebellious animosities with their Arms.

Presently after the discovery of this Treason, which was made by one of themselves; Several Expresses were dispatched into all parts of the Kingdom, to give timely notice of it, and to secure all places of strength, and persons suspected of being favourable to the like practices: Reports and Rumours followed this caution, as if *Kilkenny* (formerly the seat of the Rebel-Catholiques) *Carlo* and *Colrayn* had

had been ſeized by ſome of the party: but all proved falſe and fictitious; and we doubt not but through the care and prudence of our Lord Lieutenant, whoſe life theſe fellows aimed at, all things will be preſerved in that Peace and Tranquillity, that for the future we may undiſturbedly enjoy the bleſſings of his Majeſties moſt juſt and happy Government: All things crediting the ſame proſperous expectation, by the Loyal ſeizure of *La Rock* and Major *Abel Warren*, and the diſcovery of the grand deſigne, which you will hear of in due time, and whereto I refer you.

I ſhould according to my promiſe have given you an account of their ultimate reſolution in this Enterpriſe; but it being wholly diſappointed and fruſtrated, I love not to diſcourſe of apparitions and ſhadows; but refer you to their Examinations, which you will ſhortly have with you. Pray excuſe this tedious and unpoliſhed Narrative from

Your moſt humble and

faithful Servant.

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